



Washington State Department of

Early Learning

ECEAP Reminders and Links

April 1, 2010

E-mail: eceap@del.wa.gov

Web: www.del.wa.gov/eceap

Due Dates

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| ECEAP Directors Meeting registration | April 8 |
| Requests for printed copies of the CEF | April 8 |
| Submit March Monthly Report Form & Voucher | April 15 |
| Service Area Agreements | May 30 |
| Self-Assessment | June 30 |
| ECEAP Outcomes | June 30 |
| Financial Disclosure Certification | June 30 |

ECEAP Updates and Announcements

DEL ECEAP Directors Meeting

Thursday, April 15, 2010, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Friday, April 16, 2010, 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Lacey Community Center

Agenda items include:

- Updates from DEL Director Bette Hyde and Deputy Director Bob Hamilton
- What's new for fall 2010?
- ECEAP program review plans and fiscal oversight
- Intro to the new e-DECA 2.0
- State early learning system updates

Registration is due April 8. In accordance with your contract, each ECEAP Contractor must send a representative. For details and to register, go to:

www.del.wa.gov/publications/eceap/docs/SpringECEAPdirectors.doc.

Do you have a project or success story you'd like to report at the Directors Meeting? If so, please e-mail Joyce at joyce.kilmer@del.wa.gov.

Legislative Update

Two bills affecting ECEAP were signed into law by the Governor on March 29.

- Second Substitute House Bill 2731 phases in a voluntary early learning program for 3- and 4-year-old children, beginning September 1, 2011, using ECEAP program standards and eligibility criteria. Legislative funding and slots would be at the 2009-2011 ECEAP budget level through 2011-2013. Expansion would begin in the 2013-2014 school year, with full implementation projected in the 2018-2019 school year, when any eligible child would be entitled to enroll. DEL would be responsible for contracting and monitoring, assuring coordination with schools for kindergarten transition, providing technical assistance to providers and adopting rules for the program.
 - This bill also makes children who qualify for school district special education services eligible for ECEAP beginning with the 2010-11 school year, regardless of family income. They will not count as part of your over-income allowance. There is no requirement to prioritize children with a school district IEP or to ensure that they are a certain percentage of your enrollment. You may still blend ECEAP and children funded by special education dollars, if that is best for your community. Contractors will continue to be responsible for recruiting and serving the children most in need of services in their service areas.
 - Based on this change, DEL is issuing a new ECEAP Child Enrollment Form and revising Section B of the ECEAP Performance Standards.
- Substitute Senate Bill 6759 creates a multi-agency workgroup (including DEL) to develop a comprehensive plan for a voluntary program of early learning for 3- and 4-year-old children, with a final report by November 2011. The workgroup must examine the options of early learning as a part of state basic education and as an entitlement, and recommend eligibility criteria, program standards, performance measures, DEL and OSPI governance responsibilities, ECEAP's role, funding, and timelines for implementation.

Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 3141 has passed the Legislative and been delivered to the Governor for consideration. It requires an evaluation of the WorkFirst program and a proposal for redesigning the state's use of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families funds. It includes a 12-month child care subsidy authorization period for children who are enrolled in the Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) subsidy program while they are in Head Start, Early Head Start, or ECEAP.

As of March 30, the Legislature is in special session developing the 2010-11 state budget.

NEW Child Enrollment Form

The English and Spanish versions of the 2010 DEL Child Enrollment Form (CEF) are now available at: www.del.wa.gov/publications/eceap in several formats. You can download the CEF in two formats -- a print version for handwriting the responses and a version for typing in responses. You may also choose to customize the form, as long as it contains all components. If you would like to pick up copies of the print version of the CEF at the April 15-16 ECEAP Directors meeting, e-mail eceap@del.wa.gov with the number you need. You will not be able to enter the new CEFs in the ECEAP Management System (EMS) until June 2010.

New Financial Disclosure Certification – due June 30

As part of the DEL fiscal review process, each ECEAP Contractor will complete a financial certification disclosure form annually. It is a checklist of financial requirements from the ECEAP Contract, requiring signatures of your financial manager and director. Download at www.del.wa.gov/publications/eceap/docs/FinancialDisclosure.doc.

Invite DEL Director Bette Hyde to your Policy Council!

DEL Director Bette Hyde has been traveling the state to meet with under-represented communities about our Early Learning Plan and Washington State Early Learning and Development Benchmarks. She is seeking input from parents and would like to be invited to ECEAP and Head Start Parent Policy Councils or other parent meetings. If you would like to issue an invitation, please e-mail Shannon.bergquist@del.wa.gov.

Service Area Agreements

Service area agreements must be updated, signed, and sent to DEL by May 30. The ECEAP contract states, "The Contractor must execute written service area agreements with neighboring Head Start and ECEAP programs." These agreements must include:

- A plan for co-operative assessment of community needs and strengths.
- Enrollment and service area boundaries for each Contractor.
- A process of referral of families between agencies.
- Joint staff and parent training opportunities, if applicable.
- Commitment to communication and problem resolution.

The purpose of service area agreements is to ensure that agencies cooperate to fill all ECEAP and Head Start classrooms and serve the children most in need in each community. Agreements are required when service areas abut or overlap and there is potential for recruitment of the same families.

ECEAP Outcomes Reporting

DEL developed an online survey tool to report your outcomes, by June 30.

- SurveyMonkey works best if you enter all of the data at one sitting.
- Before you begin, you can print a paper version of this tool to gather your data at www.del.wa.gov/publications/eceap/docs/ECEAPDataCollectionTools.doc.
- When you are ready, go to: www.surveymonkey.com/s/Z29BYDH.

ECEAP Self Assessment

The updated 2010 ECEAP Self-Assessment form is ready. As in other years, this form walks you through each ECEAP Standard. This year, there are “yes” or “no” options for some standards, so less writing is required. Please follow the directions on the first page and send the form to DEL by e-mail by June 30. Download the form at www.del.wa.gov/publications/eceap/docs/SelfAssessment.doc.

New ECEAP Specialist

Nicole Rose is joining the DEL ECEAP team in mid-April as an ECEAP Specialist. Nicole has a BA in psychology from the University of Washington. She delivered ECEAP and Head Start family support for five years and now is the family support manager for ECEAP for the Community Colleges of Spokane. She also directed the Safe Schools, Healthy Children program for Spokane Public Schools. They adopted DECA and she became a DECA certified trainer during that time; she has trained many ECEAP staff around the state. Nicole also has worked intensively with the Spokane County early learning coalition and participated in a WSU research project on evidence-based home visiting. We are very pleased that she is joining DEL. Directors will have the opportunity to meet Nicole at the April 15-16 meeting.

Federal Poverty Guidelines

The federal poverty guidelines have not been amended for 2010. The 2009 guidelines remain in effect. For more information, go to <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/index.shtml>.

ECEAP Site Locator Updates

Parents are now looking for preschools for next fall. It's time to make sure that the ECEAP site locator on the DEL Web site has accurate site names and enrollment phone numbers. By April 30, please review the document at www.del.wa.gov/publications/eceap/docs/ECEAP_Sites.pdf. Send corrections to Heike at heike.syben@del.wa.gov. Please use site names that will be recognized by parents in your community.

Training Opportunities

Webinar -- e-DECA 2.0: Planning for the 2010-11 School Year Thursday, April 15, 1 to 2:00 p.m.

All of ECEAP will use the new web-based e-DECA 2.0 for our Devereux Early Childhood Assessment next fall. Your license and per child fees are paid by DEL. You can still print paper copies of the assessment tool from e-DECA 2.0 for use with parents or others. On April 15, Devereux will orient us to e-DECA 2.0 via webinar. This will occur during the ECEAP Directors Meeting in Lacey, so participants in that meeting do not need to register. DECA coordinators and other interested members of your staff can register at www1.gotomeeting.com/register/319079688 and participate from their locations. In the fall, we will have a separate webinar for teachers or other front line DECA users.

Homelessness – Online Lessons

The Office of Head Start has developed online lessons to help you understand the definition of homelessness, outreach to families experiencing homelessness, and how to develop family and community partnerships on this topic. The first lesson is now available at:

<http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/Family%20and%20Community%20Partnerships/Crisis%20Support/Homelessness/homelessness.html>.

Resource Links

Getting School Ready Download or order booklets for parents on preparing for kindergarten at www.gettingschoolready.org. These are available in nine languages.

DEL's Public Blog and Facebook Page!

DEL is excited to announce the launch of our public blog [DEL Connect](#) and our [DEL Facebook](#) page. Join in the discussion of early learning!

Bilingual Immersion Model See how CentroNia, an organization serving birth to grade 5, uses a two-way immersion model of bilingual education.

http://earlyed.newamerica.net/blogposts/2010/dual_language_learners_a_two_way_immersion_approach-29274.

Learning Literacy in the Digital Age A new generation of young children is approaching learning and literacy in ways not imagined in the past because of the availability of mobile digital devices. Learn more at

www.pearsonfoundation.org/PDF/EmergentLiteracy-WhitePaper.pdf

Let's Move! First Lady Michelle Obama started her campaign to combat childhood obesity, with four areas of focus: Healthy Choices, Healthier Schools, Physical Activity, and Accessible and Affordable Healthy Food. Learn more at www.letsmove.gov.

Obesity and Preschool The childhood obesity epidemic may have hit a plateau. Physical activity in preschool makes a difference.

<http://preschoolmatters.org/2010/03/09/preschool%E2%80%99s-role-in-fighting-childhood-obesity/>

Oral Health Learn how to find dental care and see resources on oral health education materials, kids' oral health data and other topics at www.doh.wa.gov/Data/oral.htm. See the State Collaborative Oral Health Improvement Plan at www.ws-ohc.org/plan.htm.

Healthy Kids See mental health, oral health and other health resources at www.del.wa.gov/development/health/kids.aspx.

Medical Coverage for Children Washington's Apple Health for Kids program is accepting applications. Children in a family of four with income up to \$66,000 per year can qualify. Learn more at www.parenthelp123.org/resources/health-insurance/childrens-health-insurance.

Accommodating Vegetarian Diets Learn about vegetarian diets and how to make minor adjustments to recipes and menus to meet the need of a vegetarian child in your care at www.nfsmi.org/documentlibraryfiles/PDF/20100301094743.pdf.

Teacher Preparation This new report examines the research on pre-K teacher preparation, children's learning and program quality. Teachers with bachelor's degrees and specialized training in early childhood education facilitate stronger social-emotional and cognitive development for children.
www.pewcenteronthestates.org/uploadedFiles/A_Matter_of_Degrees.pdf?n=5276

Pre-K Benefits Low Income Children the Most Tennessee released their state assessment of their pre-kindergarten program, which shows that economically-disadvantaged children show the strongest benefits.
www.comptroller1.state.tn.us/repository/NR/NewStudySuggestsPre-KHasRealButLimitedBenefits.pdf

Investing in Early Learning Listen to James Heckman, a Nobel prize-winning economist at the University of Chicago, speak on the value of investing in early learning.
www.wcpn.org/WCPN/news/30037

Safety vs. Challenge Keeping children safe is paramount, but physical challenges and risks are also important for child development.
www.childcareexchange.com/resources/view_article.php?article_id=5019252

Pre-K to 3rd Grade Projects Washington educators have produced a new book about smoothing the transitions from preschool through third grade. Learn more at:
<http://birthtothrive.thrivebyfivewa.org/post/2010/03/24/Local-Educators-Show-How-to-Make-PreK-3rd-Work-in-a-New-Book.aspx>

Week of the Young Child The NAEYC Week of the Young Child is April 11-17. The theme for 2010 is "Early Years are Learning Years." For more information, visit www.naeyc.org/woyc.